

Andrew Jackson to Andrew Jackson, Jr., March 16, 1834, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO ANDREW JACKSON, JR.

Washington, March 16, 1834.

My son, your letter of the 1st instant was received this morning. I rejoice to hear that you are all in good health and my dear little Rachel is beginning to talk and can call grand papa—how I will delight to hear her speak if I am spared and permitted to visit you this summer. Kiss Sarah and the little Pet for me and present them with my blessing and prayers for their continued good health, and present me kindly to Mr. and Mrs. Weatheral and their children, and to all our other connections.

I have to regret that you have not forwarded me the written contract between you and Mr. Hill for the Land. Let me again repeat to you to have all your contracts about Lands or any thing else, unless a transaction of purchase and payment of personal property, which right goes with the possession, always reduced to writing, and signed by the party. You say you are planting on the Land and you have no deed, no written contract. abandon such loose mode of action, or you will be involved in many lawsuits and perplexities. Attend to the following. On the receipt of this close the contract with Mr. Hill and either receive a Deed for the land, or a bond for the convayence on the first instalment being paid. If the three instalments are [intended], the two last on interest, *do not accept the credit* .

I understand your contract to be ten thousand dollars, one half to be paid on the sale of the cotton, say on the first of May next, and the other five thousand one year thereafter without interest, or if paid, *within all this year, nine thousand five hundred* . Therefore if this be the

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offer, stipulate, five thousand dollars to be paid the first of May, and five thousand first of may come a year, with permission to discharge this last payment in all the year 1834 by paying \$4.500. If the three instalments are intended without interest, then I would take the two years credit, but not otherwise. I say to you, have your contract reduced to writing. The price is a very high one, *pay no interest* , but if he will take it, make the instalments as follows, \$4000 on the first of may next, \$3000, one year from that day, and \$3000 at two years from that date, without interest, with permission to discharge the two last instalments in all the year 1834, by the payment of five thousand five hundred dollars (\$5500) to be received at any time when part is offered. This last if Mr. Hill will agree, enter into and commit to writing and conclude the contract at once. *Put it in writing* , that I may know really what it is that I have to provide for, and send me on a duplicate of the contract, and if made consistant with these instructions say to Mr. Hill, I will be bound for complience on your part, and remit to Nashville whatever the sale of the cotton may fall short in the payment after paying the expence and supplies of the farm, or accept a draft drew payable to me here, after applying a sum which is to be at my credit the 1st day of may in the Union Bank Nashville and the amount of judge overtons note, upwards, in all, of \$1200. I pray you my son to close this business on the receipt of this if not done before; and learn to close your contracts allways spedily and in writing.

I have only time now to add a few words about the farm. You ought to sow this year, this spring from 60, to one hundred acres in oats. You say your corn will be scarce, and the oats will relieve you and nothing is better for your Hoggs if you have an oats field to turn them in when heading and in the milk, and they are fine for mares and colts, and thus managed the oats straw makes the finest manure rooted, as it always is, and buried in the earth. I must close, let me have your contract with Mr. Hill about the Land in writing on receipt of this if not done before

yr affectionate father